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**STUDENTS USING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL PUBLISHING/HAMPTON BROWN  
'EDGE' PROGRAM MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN READING AND LANGUAGE, STUDY FINDS**

WASHINGTON (Feb. 10, 2009)—“Edge,” an innovative Reading/Language Arts program, dramatically helped students improve their reading and language skills within a year, a research study by the independent SEG Research Group has found. “Edge,” published by National Geographic School Publishing/Hampton-Brown, is a core intervention program designed for high school students who have not mastered essential reading, writing and language skills and are typically reading two or more years below grade level.

More than 1,800 students in grades nine through 12 from 18 school districts representing all regions of the United States participated in the study during the 2007-2008 school year. Results reveal that when matched with control group students using other intervention programs, students who used “Edge” gained more than three times as much in reading comprehension, more than twice as much in language, and one and a half times as much in vocabulary on a nationally standardized achievement measure.

“Edge” builds reading, writing and language power for striving readers and English language learners. The program equips students with the skills they need to succeed in an academic environment through use of systematic teaching and active participation. The materials, which include high-interest, multicultural literature selections, both fiction and nonfiction, engage and motivate adolescent readers. With comprehensive coverage of high school standards through specialized, focused instruction, the program leads to graduation and a rewarding future.

“We understand the importance of effectiveness research and have integrated it into our publishing program,” said Alison Wagner, president, National Geographic School Publishing. “The ‘Edge’ study illustrates how National Geographic School Publishing materials can make a significant difference. I look forward to partnering with educators who are using the ‘Edge’ program to engage their students and unlock their true potential.”

“One of the most exciting outcomes in using ‘Edge’ this year is that we had students that were able to pass our state’s high school exit exam on their first attempt,” said Luz Elena Perez, an administrator from a California school district participating in the “Edge” study. “We were so excited to have that unprecedented level of success with ‘Edge’ because now, more than just ensuring that standards are met and students are motivated, we are able to say to our students, ‘You can walk away from this high school with a diploma.’ How empowering that is for students as well as for their teachers. Our district has a high level of commitment to ‘Edge.’”

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National Geographic School Publishing provides quality PreK-12 instructional materials, including resources for emergent and early literacy, reading/language arts, ESL/ELD and content literacy development. National Geographic School Publishing and Hampton-Brown brands include award-winning educational programs that deliver the engaging content and incredible quality educators know and expect from National Geographic. In the area of ESL, Hampton-Brown set the standard with its state-of-the-art programs “High Point” and “Avenues.” National Geographic School Publishing programs for striving readers and English language learners at the secondary level include “Edge” for high school and the newly released “Inside” for middle school students. This grade 6-12 solution is designed to build the language and literacy skills that students need to pass exit exams and to graduate from high school. National Geographic School Publishing products are ideal for striving readers, English language learners and diverse classrooms (see [NGSP.com](http://NGSP.com)).

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